GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5779
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD DISTRICTS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn/formulated any programme for development of most backward, desert area of Rajasthan especially Barmer and Jaisalmer districts;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government for development of Thar desert; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work is likely to commence?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) & (b) The planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Each State Government draws up its own Five Year and Annual Plans and makes spatial and sectoral allocations. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments, including the Government of Rajasthan, for meeting the special problems of certain areas through Area Development Programmes. The Desert Development Programme (DDP) is in operation in 85 blocks of 16 districts (including Barmer and Jaisalmer) of Rajasthan. Further, the Border Area Development Programme is in operation in 13 blocks of the State including two blocks of Jaisalmer district and 4 blocks of Barmer district. In addition the Drought Prone Area Programme covers 32 blocks of 10 districts of the State.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. No separate Action Plan has been formulated for the development of the Thar Desert. However, 10 desert districts of Rajasthan, which are presently covered under DDP, have been permitted to take up special development projects for the purpose of sand-dune stabilization and shelter belt plantation works which do not usually fit into a watershed project. Up to 50% of the allocations made under DDP to these 10 desert districts can be utilized for these special projects. During 1999-2000 , 614 such special projects have been sanctioned to these 10 districts in Rajasthan under which 3.07 lakh hectares would be treated. The total cost of these projects works out to Rs. 153.50 crores and the first instalment of Rs. 17.27 crores has also been released in 1999-2000.